



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY FOR 152ND

A deployment ceremony will be held for the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion on Saturday, July 6, at 10 a.m. (CDT) at the T.F. Riggs High School auditorium in Pierre.

The Pierre-based 152nd will deploy about 70 Soldiers assigned to its Headquarters and Headquarters Company for a nine-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The mission of the 152nd is to provide multi-functional combat support and combat service support to forces throughout an assigned area of operation. Multi-functional areas include supply, transportation, maintenance and ordnance support.

The 152nd will report to Fort Hood, Texas, for several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is the first deployment for the unit.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
JULY**



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**"May the sun in his
course visit no land
more free, more happy,
more lovely, than this
our own country! "**

Daniel Webster

ON THE AIR

Gordon Richard, Spink County Veterans Service Officer, and Steve Oliva, SD Department of Veterans Affairs Field Officer, are hitting the air waves!

On Saturday, June 28, set your dials to KOKD 1380 am and you will be able to hear Gordon and Steve as they discuss the roles of the Department and the VSOs, the need to reach all of South Dakota's veterans, the role of the VA, the cost of freedom, the importance of celebrating Independence Day and the need to raise awareness with regard to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Both Richards and Oliva encouraged everyone to help in raising PTSD awareness by learning more about PTSD and reaching out and making a difference. They noted that there are many barriers that keep people with PTSD from seeking the help they need and noted some of the many new resources available for both the veteran and the caregiver.

Richards and Oliva stressed that the goal of the Department is to be the "Voice for South Dakota's Veterans."

Estimated air times are: 12:14 a.m., 4:15 a.m., 6:15 a.m., 12:14 p.m., and 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 28.



THEY ARE LIVE AND



UTAH LOSES A GREAT VETERAN ADVOCATE

This Friday marks Terry Schow's last day at the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs after forty-seven years of service to Utah's veterans. During his tenure, they built three veterans homes and made drastic improvements to their veterans cemetery.

"Serving Those Who Served"



Schow credits the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) for the great training he received. Schow served as the president of NASDVA and was appreciative of the support he received from his fellow directors.



VABHHCS VETERAN WALL OF HONOR

After years of holding on to memorabilia of their loved ones time in the armed services, two families took the military stripes and photos out of their scrapbooks and had them placed on the Wall of Honor at VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) to give praise to their loved ones memories.

Earlier this year, VA BHHCS started the Wall of Honor project at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, where Veterans and their families could donate memories of loved ones, such as pictures, medals and other military items, to VABHHCS, so these Veterans could forever be honored in the hallways of the medical center.



There is no specific service accomplishment required to feature a veteran on the Wall of Honor. Any veteran with an honorable discharge from the armed forces and who has been enrolled at one of the VABHHCS facilities can be honored.

So far two families donated items for displays on the Wall of Honor. VABHHCS hopes to have many more stories hanging on the walls in the medical center as time goes on. The Wall of Honor project pays tribute to the selfless and courageous acts made by veterans. It is a promise to never forget the sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

For more information on the VABHHCS Wall of Honor, contact Greg Covey at 605-720-7050.

UNACCOMPANIED VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Black Hills National Cemetery (BHNC) will hold an Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service on Monday, July 1, 2013, at 9:00 am MT.

This special service will be held at the BHNC (20901 Pleasant Valley Drive—Sturgis, SD).

Questions regarding the service should be directed to 800-743-1070 (ext. 7299) or 605-347-3830.



147TH FIELD ARTILLERY CONDUCTS LIVE-FIRE OPERATION IN WYOMING

"Shot out!" called the fire direction control of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, during a live-fire operation for their field artillery certification using the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) on Saturday, June 15, at Camp Guernsey.

The battalion started their field artillery certification process in February, which began with written safety tests, rehearsals of safety measures on different situations, and setting codes in the launchers' computer systems. 1-147th soldiers put these certifications to the test with this live-fire mission as part of their annual training.

The 1-147th consists of two firing batteries; Alpha Battery from Aberdeen and Bravo Battery from Yankton. The two batteries are supported by the Forward Support Company (FSC) of Mitchell, Sioux Falls, and Webster, which provides maintenance and logistical support and the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB) of Watertown, which provides the staff for command and control and support operations.

Soldiers were not just focusing on the live-fire mission, but also looking at how to position the MLRS in better fighting positions and using different techniques of improving the speed at which the unit could deploy its arsenal on enemy targets.

The batteries of the 1-147th conduct live-fire operations as if they were in a combat situation. The battalion headquarters sends down a mission to the batteries, where the fire direction control assigns the orders for the fire mission to the batteries' firing sections.

Each launcher section consists of a crew chief, gunner and driver; with four sections to a platoon and two platoons to a battery, which makes 16 launchers for the battalion. The 1-147th certified 15 of their 16 sections at the live fire event, where each section was able to fire off four, live rockets for three different mission scenarios.



BIRNBAUM AWARDED THE ORDER OF ST MAURICE

State Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Michael L. Birnbaum was recently awarded the "Order Of St. Maurice" award.

The National Infantry Association recently thanked and recognized Mike for his commitment to continue to serve his state and nation after 38 years of honorable and dedicated military service as an Infantryman and continued service as an advocate for South Dakota's veterans. Birnbaum was honored as a model of a professional warrior, trusted advisor, mentor and caring leader that is expected of the great Infantrymen of the past and today's modern warrior. The Army's core values and warrior spirit are demonstrated in his words and actions as he continues to serve his state and nation as an active retiree and member of numerous state and national organizations that focus on the betterment of the lives of Americans who serve those in need,



Sarah Birnbaum, Michael Birnbaum and LTC Orson Ward

MISS SD CONTESTANTS VISIT VETERANS

Young women from around South Dakota converged on Hot Springs, for the Miss South Dakota Pageant finals this week.

On Monday the contestants took time out of their busy rehearsal schedule to visit the residents of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. The theme of this year's Miss South Dakota Pageant is "Ready to Rumble," a sports-centered theme for the event that will take place at the Mueller Center in Hot Springs on Saturday at 7 p.m. For more information about the pageant, visit:

<http://www.missd.org/>



The 2013
Miss South Dakota Pageant
June 26-29 in Hot Springs



69 YEARS AGO FDR SIGNS GI BILL

Sixty-nine (69) years ago, on June 22, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Public Law 78-346, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, to provide sweeping new benefits to World War II Veterans. The law has been commonly referred to as the "G.I. Bill" since then.

The G.I. Bill is most remembered for providing unprecedented educational benefits, but it did much more:

- It elevated the VA to a war essential agency, second only to the War and Navy Departments (at the time), giving it elevated priority in funding, etc.
- Provided \$500,000,000 for additional veterans hospitals
- Authorized interchange of staff and facilities between VA and the military services to facilitate adjudication and dissemination of *all* veterans benefits
- Authorized educational benefits to honorably discharged veterans (not just the disabled) who served after September 16, 1940 (World War II veterans); this included attending college, refresher courses, retraining, etc., at approved institutions for up to 4 years
- Provided loans for veterans to purchase homes, new construction, farms and farm equipment, and business property
- Provided job counseling and employment services for World War II veterans.

Before the 1944 G.I. Bill became law, training and educational opportunities were limited to disabled military veterans

who were injured during their service. Beginning at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (VHA origins), established in 1865, disabled veterans were trained in new occupations as their interests and abilities allowed. Veterans were taught trades such as telegraphy, plastering, or gardening as residents at the National Homes. There was no education opportunities or benefits for them outside of the National Home. Congress

authorized funds for farming or manufacturing operations at the National Homes as both a means to supply necessary food, supplies, and services to the Homes and as occupational endeavors for its residents. By 1875, veterans at the National Homes were engaged in cigar-making, knitting socks, printing and bookbinding, shoe-making, wagon-making, iron work, plumbing, building steam engines, tin-smithing, tailoring, bread baking, breeding and raising livestock, cabinetry, and much more. They often sold items to the public in the Home's commissary and were paid for their labors.



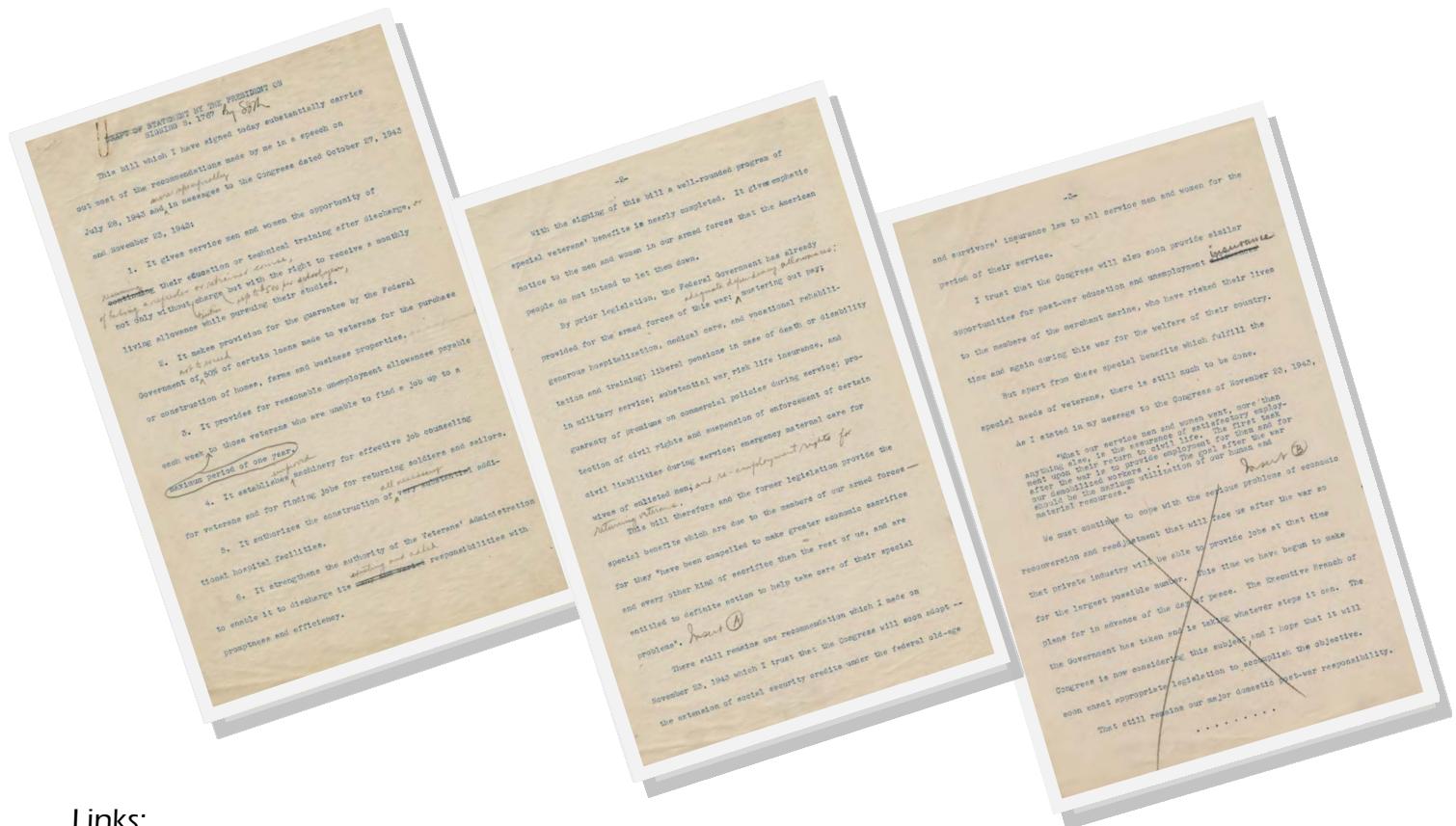
69 YEARS AGO FDR SIGNS GI BILL (CONTINUED)

In 1918, the Federal Board of Vocational Education established a rehabilitation division for disabled World War I veterans. The Board worked with states, local business, and vocational schools to provide veterans with training for new occupations such as farming or teaching. By 1922, over 156,000 disabled World War Veterans had entered 445 trades or professions. The VA's 1945 annual report showed that during the G.I. Bill's first year:

- VA received 83,016 applications for education benefits: of those, 75,272 were eligible, 35,044 entered courses, and 22,335 were in training
- VA received 15,455 applications for home loan guarantees: 12,228 loans were made in the amount of \$19,644,824.90 for 11,220 home loans, 270 farm loans, and 738 business loans.

By 1951 8,170,000 veterans had attended over 1,700 schools and colleges at a cost to the Government of \$14,000,000,000. 3,430,000 were able to finish high school; 2,350,000 went to college; 1,630,000 received on-the-job training, and 760,000 obtained on-the-farm training. In 1944, educators were skeptical about the bill, but by 1951, they had nothing but praise for the bill's success in educating millions of veterans who could not have afforded to do so on their own.

The G.I. Bill was authorized and implemented under General Frank T. Hines' administration at VA. Since 1944, educational benefits of some form have been provided to military veterans of every war America has participated in.



Links:

FDR final speech at G.I. Bill signing, June 22, 1944: <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/odgist.html>

TASTE TESTING AN MRE?

This week when students from the Pierre Boys and Girls Club visited the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre they were served up a delicious meal — military style.

Museum Director Sonja Johnson provided the students with a brief history on MREs; why and when they are used.

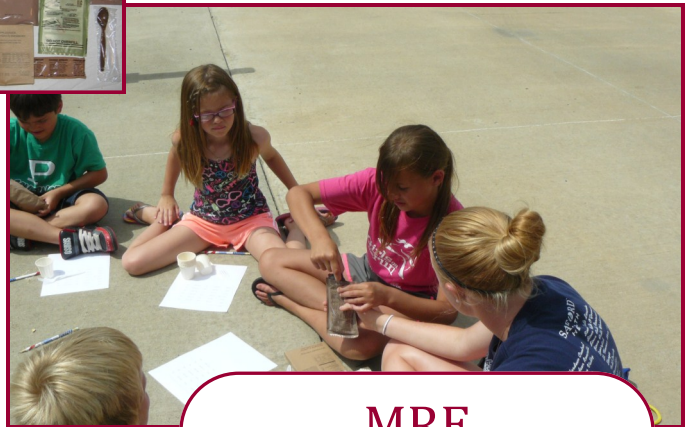
These young-spirited individuals then participated in a little taste testing scenario! Each donned with fork, napkin and bowl, bellied up to see what might be in their groups MRE. The students sampled the entrees, side dishes, breads, desserts, snacks and beverages.

Many of these students know soldiers from the 200th Engineer Company and the 152nd CSSB, so it's a great experience for them to learn first-hand about the meals the soldiers eat while training and serving their country.

Director Johnson asked the students to judge the meals and although none of the students were asking for the recipes, they were somewhat surprised by the quality of the meals. However, it is safe to say that the

dessert portion of each of the respective groups meals was very well received and no leftovers were found!!!!!!

Johnson's next student project at the museum will focus on the history of the American flag.



MRE

Meals Ready to Eat

Entrée * Side Dish * Bread * Dessert * Candy * Beverage
* Condiments * Heater * Accessories



STOUX FALLS VA OFFERS SHINGLES AND PNEUMONIA VACCINATIONS

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System is offering enrolled veterans, who are 60 years or older, vaccinations against shingles, pneumonia, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) beginning June 27, 2013.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost one of three people in America will develop shingles during their lifetime. Risk increases with age, and veterans 60 years of age or older are encouraged to get vaccinated.

Walk-in vaccination clinics for enrolled veterans will be available at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center in the front lobby, Room F07 on the dates posted below.

Get Vaccinated!
**Pneumonia
Vaccine**

June 27, 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
July 24, 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
July 31, 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
Aug. 5, 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
Aug. 13, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm
Aug. 23, 7:00 am – 12:00 noon

Get Vaccinated!
**Pneumonia
Vaccine**

SDDVA VETERANS BENEFITS SCHOOL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SDDVA VETERANS BENEFITS
SCHOOL
AUG. 26 – 28, 2013
RAMKOTA HOTEL
PIERRE, SD**

The annual South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits School for County and Tribal Veterans Services Officers will be held Monday, August 26, through Wednesday, August 28. The School will be held at the Ramkota Hotel In Pierre.

Room reservations and conference agendas will be forwarded in the very near future.

Upcoming Events

Jun. 29—VFW's Salute the Veterans Golf Tournament—Rolling Hills Golf Club—Aberdeen—1:00 pm
Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Jul. 1—NCANG Memorial Dedication—10:00 am
Jul. 6—152nd Deployment Ceremony—10:00 am - T.F. Riggs High School—Pierre
Jul. 8—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre
Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre
Jul. 31—Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
Aug. 3—All Veterans Reunion—Hot Springs
Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown
Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
Sep. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am



Thursday, August 29, has been designated as "salute to veterans and military personnel" day at the South Dakota State Fair. All veterans and active military personnel will be given free gate admission.

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